

CITY MAYOR FAIR DEBATE FRAMEWORK  
WITH QUESTIONS BY THE FILIPINO CITIZENS

(Version 1.1)

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This debate format is **free for the Filipino people** and for **any nation** that values fair elections. Use it. Edit it. Share it. But don't exploit it.

Just give credit as part of the debate program.

## **SUGGESTED FORMAT:**

A debate with at least one hundred attendees.

- The list of the first 50 attendees shall come from one political party, while the second 50 attendees shall come from another political party.

No need to disclose the names of the 100 attendees. They shall wear two distinct colors representing who they support.

All attendees shall put their question on a piece of paper 15 minutes before the start of the debate. They shall put it in a box at the table in front of the two Mayor aspirants.

The first 10 questions shall be randomly chosen one by one by the two Mayor aspirants as debate questions. After 10 questions, all 100 guests can make a majority vote, whether to continue with another round of 10 questions.

There shall be two moderators of the debate: one from one political party, and the second from another political party.

The time limit to answer each question, and the rebuttal for each question, can follow the same format as the last Senatorial Debate organized by GMA7.

Suggested Time and Venue: City Hall at 8:00am from Monday to Friday. Via Facebook live so everyone can watch.

Campaign Expense: ZERO (0 php)

### **Note:**

The format can be adjusted accordingly if there are three or more Mayor aspirants in a city. The same format above can be used by all aspirants seeking any elective positions such as Vice Mayor, Governor, Vice Governor, Congressman, Councilors, and Board Member aspirants.

Let's all end the political dynasty by allowing highly qualified Filipinos to debate fairly—no political machinery, no large number of supporters. Just mind, character, platforms, and vision for the Filipino people.

Para sa Pilipinas !!!

## **DETAILED DEBATE FORMAT**

### **Monday or Thursday:**

All Mayor Aspirants shall be at front of their respective City Hall to discuss the format of the debate at 8:00am. Bring your own mic, and whiteboard (optional) to better explain the format.

*If at least one is present, and the other is absent:*

If one Mayor aspirant is absent for 15 minutes, the present aspirant can proceed with explaining his/her debate format for a maximum of one hour only. At 1pm the same day, he/she shall publicize in his/her official Facebook account the written format of the proposed debate format.

The public shall take note who is absent on Monday or Thursday to discuss the debate format.

*If all are present:*

All Mayor aspirants must publicly discuss the format they want. Each shall bring a mic, and whiteboard (optional) to better explain their proposed debate format. They shall speak impromptu on why their format should be used for the debate.

Toss a coin to decide who shall explain first.

After all aspirants publicly explain their proposed debate format, they can either decide to work together to have a final debate format, or they can upload their respective debate format in a local FB group with the highest member.

The debate format with the highest likes shall be used in the debate.

**Other option:** Adopt my proposed debate format, and just change the specific details.

## ADOPTING MY PROPOSED DEBATE FORMAT

The **yellow highlights** are my proposed details. While the **bold and underline** shall be the final that will be used in the debate proper. The **bold and underline** can change based on the input of each aspirant.

### 1. Number of attendees for each political parties: **50 attendees each**

- In case both parties have different attendees, just take the average and it shall be the final number of attendees for each.
- Example: One Mayor aspirant suggested 100 attendees, while the 2nd Mayor aspirant suggested 50 attendees.
  - $(100 + 50) / 2 = \mathbf{75\ attendees}$  each Mayor aspirant

### 2. Number of initial questions: **10**

- In case both parties have different numbers of proposed initial questions, just take the average and it shall be the final number of initial questions.
- Example: One Mayor aspirant suggested 20 initial questions, while the 2nd Mayor aspirant suggested 10 initial questions.
  - $(20 + 10) / 2 = \mathbf{15\ initial\ questions}$
  - Each question shall be answered ONE at a time by each aspirant. If the question is addressed to one Aspirant only, the other aspirant shall still answer the question.
  - Time limit: 5 minutes for each answer. 3 minutes rebuttal.
  - Example: Aspirant 1 answer the question #1 in 5 minutes, then the other aspirant has a maximum of 3 minutes rebuttal regardless whether his/her name is mentioned. Aspirant 2 answer the same question #1 in maximum of 5 minutes, and the other aspirant has a maximum of 3 minutes rebuttal whether or not his/her name is mentioned. In short, each has a maximum of 8 minutes for each question.
  - Just focus on the question and answer at a time to finish the first batch of 10 questions. Then all the attendees can have a majority vote whether to proceed in the next batch of 10 questions. The next day, each aspirant can have a press

conference in their own time to explain further in more than 8 minutes their respective answers in the debate.

- The moderator's role is to ensure that each question will be answered in 5 minutes, and 3 minutes for each rebuttal. After 8 minutes, they can just tell the aspirant to explain during their unlimited time the next day.
- Suggestion: A good moderator shall have at least 3 years arbitration experience. Each political party may consider the candidate's arbitration experience.

### 3. Number of minutes to answer each question, and number of minutes for each rebuttal.

- 5 minutes to answer each question, and 3 minutes for each rebuttal.
- If each aspirant has different suggested minutes, just take the average of their individual suggestion and it shall be the final during the debate proper.

### 4. Variations of Audience:

- 1st Debate: All attendees are supporters from two political parties
- 2nd Debate: All attendees are public school teachers and medical practitioners in the city
- 3rd Debate: All attendees are professionals (businessmen, accountants, engineers, etc.) in the city
- 4th Debate: All attendees are all college students in the city
- 5th Final Debate: All attendees are open to all citizens in the city

The audience variations above may be modified by the aspirants every Monday or Thursday, or on the day before the actual debate. These audience compositions cover important sectors such as education, healthcare, professionals, and youth — with the final debate ensuring inclusive participation for all citizens.

However, the 50-50 audience split between two political parties in the first debate shall not be modified, to ensure fairness in the source of questions. The 2nd to 4th debates are open to all residents of the city who belong to the specific sector.

## THE DEBATE PROPER (Tuesday or Friday)

The next day after Monday or Thursday in which the details above are finalized.

Example: If the Mayor aspirants finalized the debate details on April 21 (Monday), the debate shall proceed the next day April 22 (Tuesday), or any day within the same week mutually agreed upon on Monday. If they decide on debate details on Thursday, they can have a debate on Monday next week.

In case there is a deadlock due to personality conflict, the aspirants can play bato bato pick in public, recorded via Facebook live for transparency. Best of five, and the one with the highest score shall decide whether the debate should be the same week or next week.

Non-negotiable: Do not prolong the debate into the 3rd week or 4th week after the format is finalized, as the election is fast approaching.

Submitted questions must avoid the following:

- Private life – including personal relationships, family matters, or rumors
- Religious beliefs – any mention of faith or denomination to avoid bias or division
- Hate speech or offensive language – including threats, insults, or discriminatory remarks

**Focus questions on the candidate's platform, policies, track record, and plans for the city.**

If a question includes references to private life, religious beliefs, or hate or offensive language, the aspirants have the **right to respectfully decline** to answer it. All aspirants also have the right to invoke their constitutional rights, including the right against self-incrimination, the right to remain silent, the right to privacy, the right to due process, and the right to be free from discriminatory or biased questioning. These rights shall be respected throughout the debate.

There shall be a visible clock in the background and in front of the aspirants, so that both they and the public are fully aware of the allotted time. The two moderators may use a buzzer or a placard to signal the end of each answer and rebuttal period.

## PROGRAM

- I. PRAYER and NATIONAL ANTHEM (15 minutes) 8:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.
- II. TWO MODERATORS EXPLAINING THE FINAL DEBATE FORMAT (15 minutes) 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- III. INTRODUCTION: All Mayor aspirants shall introduce themselves in FIVE (5) minutes. Answer the question: Who they are and why they should be the next Mayor.
  - Anyone can volunteer who wants to come first. If both want to come first for the introduction part due to personality conflict, the two aspirants can play 'bato bato pick' on stage, best of five. The one with the highest score shall be the first to make a formal introduction.
- IV. START OF DEBATE. 10 questions in the first batch, with one question at a time. After 10 questions, all attendees shall make a majority decision whether to proceed with the next batch of 10 questions or not.

*Rule if there is a **duplicate** question:* The Mayor aspirant who picks the duplicate question will still publicly state the question. It will be skipped.

*Rule if there is a **similar** question:* Not duplicate, but there are some parts of the question that are quite different. Proceed with the debate.
- V. END OF DEBATE. Closing message of each aspirant maximum of five minutes. Similar to the closing message of the 2016 Presidential Debate.
  - Anyone can volunteer who wants to come first. If both want to come first for the closing message due to personality conflict, the two aspirants can play 'bato bato pick' on stage, best of five. The one with the highest score shall be the first to make a closing message.
- VI. HANDSHAKE FOR SPORTSMANSHIP AND CLOSING PRAYER

**Recommendation:** If you have a recommendation to improve the above format, just leave a message in the comment section in social media and tag me.

If it's a totally different recommendation, just publish your own from scratch.

There might be some grammar mistakes, I will just fix it in the future in version 2.

## **ADDITIONAL RULES THAT CAN BE DISCUSSED BY THE ASPIRANTS**

*Audience Rules:* Heckling, loud noise, or any form of disruption shall NOT be allowed during the debate. Each audience member will be given a maximum of two warnings. On the second offense, they shall be escorted out of the venue.

*Backup Moderator:* A backup moderator may be designated in case one of the original moderators is unable to continue or cannot control the flow of the debate.

*Bato Bato Pick:* May be replaced by a toss coin in case of personality conflict. I still preferred Bato Bato Pick as a light and culturally grounded method to move forward.

*Debate, Not Campaign:* The event is a debate and not a campaign rally, unless otherwise agreed upon by both parties. Vice mayoral candidates, councilors, and other local aspirants may attend as part of the audience and may also submit questions. They can initiate and organize a separate debate for their respective positions.

*Equal Mic Quality and Sound System:* The same microphone quality and sound system shall be provided to all aspirants. It is recommended to use the existing sound system of the City Hall, if available.

*Mitigate Fake Attendees:* Attendees shall be required to bring a valid proof of residence. There is no need to photocopy or submit the document; however, attendees must be ready to present it if their residency is questioned by anyone. A penalty of ₱1,000 shall apply if it is later proven that an attendee came from another city; with the amount used to provide ₱1,000 worth of food for street children in the city.

*Uniform Paper Size for Questions:* All attendees shall use the same paper size when submitting questions to ensure an equal chance of being selected. The paper must be cut and distributed to all attendees 30 minutes before the debate, giving them only 15 minutes to write their questions.